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29 June 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

State Dept. review completed

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29 June 1964

DAILY BRIEF

Italy: Proponents of the center-left concept can be expected to make an extreme effort to form a new coalition as quickly as possible, but public confidence is shaken and a period of indecision and political agitation is in prospect.

President Segni reportedly is considering first calling on Aldo Moro to try to reconstitute a center-left coalition. He apparently reasons that since none of the responsible leaders within the Moro government desired or were prepared for what happened, they should be given a chance to patch together a viable government.

It seems unlikely, however, that a simple reconstruction of the old coalition will be possible. Some reshuffling of cabinet posts would be almost certain, and some rephrasing of party commitments will be essential. Vice Premier Nenni, for example, is reportedly anxious to return to active leadership of the Socialist Party, and rebellious wings of both the Socialist and the Christian Democratic parties will have to be reckoned with. In view of the crisis, the Christian Democratic national congress, which had been scheduled for 1 July, has been postponed.

If Moro fails to re-establish a coalition, Segni reportedly will call on another Christian Democratic leader, perhaps Interior Minister Emilio Taviani, with the same objective. If all efforts to reconstitute a center-left coalition fail, an all - Christian Democratic caretaker government is probably in prospect.

(continued)

Partly because of the extent to which current leaders are committed to the center-left concept and partly because of the prospect of Communist electoral gains, every effort will probably be made to reach an accommodation short of elections.

[Extremists can be expected to increase their efforts to promote political instability. Just before the fall of the government, neo-Fascists, some Liberals, Monarchists, and other rightists had reportedly been organizing a "national demonstration" in the hope of provoking a counter-demonstration from the Communists. The intention would then be to stimulate a political shift to the right in reaction to a real or alleged Communist danger.]

Communist Party chief Togliatti has reportedly ordered his followers to campaign for a "new policy and a new majority." The Communist-led General Labor Confederation will almost certainly foment new strikes, which could lead to violence.

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Tanganyika-Zanzibar: Tanganyika appears finally to be taking firm action to incorporate Zanzibar into the two-month-old United Republic.

Dar-es-Salaam announced on 25 June that all diplomatic missions in Zanzibar--presumably including the East German Embassy--are to be reduced to consular level after 1 July. The same day Kambona, emphasizing that he was acting as the United Republic's foreign minister, visited Zanzibar and installed an able Tanganyikan in the job that pro-Communist Babu--still referring to himself as Zanzibar's foreign minister--had been filling.

Earlier last week, while four of Zanzibar's most ardent pro-Communist leaders were absent, another tough, able Tanganyikan took up a ministerial post close to impressionable Vice President Karume. At the same time, some fifteen Tanganyikan officials began merger talks with their colleagues in various Zanzibar ministries and the security forces.

Karume has removed two of the three pro-Communist commissioners on Pemba Island following complaints about their brutal tactics, and a number of political prisoners on Zanzibar have been released.

[President Nyerere has told the West German ambassador in Dar-es-Salaam that reduction of the East German Embassy in Zanzibar to a consulate was "the limit of his ability." Nyerere, who pointed out that he had "inherited" this embassy and was not in a position "to solve the German problem," promised that the East Germans would not be admitted to Tanganyika.] Although West Germany would prefer to see East Germany represented by nothing higher than a trade mission, Bonn may find a way to accept Nyerere's formula.

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* India: [Prime Minister Shastri's illness--described merely as "exhaustion" requiring a period of complete rest--introduces uncertainties at a time when the air has barely cleared from the momentous transfer of power from Nehru.]

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[It seems likely that the pace of his administration, rather than the administration itself, will be the major immediate casualty. There is also a good chance that he will be forced to cancel his planned departure for London on 5 July for the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference. This meeting was to provide the first opportunity since Nehru's death for Shastri and Pakistan's Ayub Khan to take their promised "fresh look" at Kashmir and the other problems which have long poisoned relations between their countries.]

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DAILY BRIEF

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NOTES

Panama: Extremist elements may try to convert student "sovereignty" demonstrations on 3-4 July into a march into the Canal Zone. Non-Communist students oppose the idea but may not be able to prevent such a march as part of demonstrations to be held at the secondary school at the Canal Zone border where the flag march of 9 January originated. The Panamanian Government will try to avert violence during current economic and diplomatic discussions with the US, but pro-Communist elements will keep up their pressure on the weak Chiari administration during its remaining three months in office.

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Syria: The generally unpopular Syrian Baath regime is apparently attempting to broaden its political base and rally wider public support. Former political leaders have been released from the "civil isolation" imposed on them after the Baath seized power a year ago, many political detainees have been released from prison, and discussions are now in progress concerning the formation of some sort of limited "national front" government. It is unlikely, however, that the Baathists will allow non-Baathist elements any meaningful role in the government.

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